

Enhanced and Expanded Title IV-E Waiver Strategies - Probation

Introduction: The Title IV-E Child Welfare Waiver Capped Allocation Demonstration Project (Waiver) provides DCFS and Probation the opportunity to make critical system changes in child welfare services provisions. It enables both improved outcomes for children and families; and enhanced case work practice and performance. Since Waiver implementation in July 2007, the Department's performance has improved in the areas of permanency, placement stability and appropriateness of placement. The Department plans to continue this positive trend by expanding existing strategies as well as proposing new strategies to further improve outcomes for children and families.

1) Case Management System Enhancements and Data Interface:

- a) Improved case management collaboration
- b) Improved data driven decision making
- c) Improved re-instatement and processing of Medi-cal required for EPSDT contracted services.

2) Expansion of appropriate evidence-based family focused services, to be available for immediate access to families upon referral.

3) Expanded capacity of co-located staff, to be available for investigations of youth crossing over from dependency to delinquency to determine appropriate status and/or need for dual jurisdiction.

Probation proposes to utilize Waiver reinvestment funds toward services that address the following outcomes:

- I. Increased permanency,
- II. Placement Stability, and
- III. Enhanced Self-sufficiency.

I. Increased Permanency

It is critical that children do not languish in out-of-home care. This means that children are safely reunified, and for those who cannot return home, alternate permanency, including adoption, is achieved in a timely manner. It also means that children in out-of-home care are placed in the least restrictive, safe and stable setting, with as few moves as possible. Finally, successful permanency achieved through reunification means that children who are returned home do not re-enter the child welfare or more restrictive probation placement.

Key indicators that Probation will track for increased permanency are:

Reunification within 12 months (Probation) – percentage of children discharged to reunification within 12 months of removal.

- Baseline 62.7%
- Current 81.81%
- National Standard 75.2%

Reentry following reunification (Probation) – percentage of children reentering foster care within 12 months of a reunification discharge.

- Baseline 12.3%
- Current 15.8%
- National Standard 9.9%

Increased Permanency: Recommended Services

Probation Case Management System (PCMS) Enhancements – The Probation Case Management System (PCMS) is a large and complex system that provides intensive juvenile field case management functionality, including investigation, supervision, placement, and various special units. With additional funding, modifications to the system can be made to better support the case management needs of Placement minors.

- Proposal is to offset the cost of Probation Case Management System (PCMS) enhancements, support and maintenance related to Placement Services.
- **FY 11-12: \$250,000; FY 12-13: \$0**

Update

- Enhancements are ongoing and funding will roll over to FY 12-13.

Probation Case Management System (PCMS) Interface with the Department of Children and Family Services' Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS) - National Youth in Transition Database (NYTD) data is currently being entered manually into CWS/CMS by Probation Department Deputy Probation Officers (which is a duplicate data entry process between PCMS and CWS/CMS). The Probation Department is therefore in compliance with the state mandate, but has identified the need for development of an electronic interface between both systems pending the provision of staffing resources and funding.

- Proposal is to hire an Information Technology Support Services Master Agreement (ITSSMA) contractor who can support the build of a PCMS interface with the Department of Children and Family Services' Child Welfare Services/Case Management System (CWS/CMS).
- **FY 11-12: \$250,000; FY 12-13:\$0**

Update

- Discussions are ongoing as the platform for CWS/CMS will no longer be supported by Microsoft.

Probation Case Management System (PCMS) Interface with the Department of Social Services' Leader System - An interface between PCMS and the Department of Public Social Services (DPSS) system is needed for Data Sharing for Medi-Cal Pre-Release (required by the State of California through SB 1469), and DPSS Data Sharing for Grand Jury Reporting (required by the State of California through SB 1147) regarding minors in Probation custody for over 30 days.

- Proposal is to hire an Information Technology Support Services Master Agreement (ITSSMA) contractor to identify interface requirements from source systems; create, extract, transfer, and load solutions; communicate effectively with internal and vendor developers and other technical resources to create interface programs; and test and troubleshoot interface issues.
- **FY 11-12: \$150,000; FY 12-13: \$0**

Update

- The Departments are running extraction and network connections tests to proceed with an implementation date.

Expansion of Functional Family Therapy (FFT) and Multi-systemic Therapy (MST) - Probation has adopted MST and FFT as the first line evidence-based, family focused treatment approach to serve youth at-risk of removal from the home and youth returning home from congregate care. These services are delivered in the home, school, and community rather than in a clinic or residential treatment setting. Additional FFT/MST services resulting from amended contracts will allow the Department to serve a greater number of youth, thereby preventing entry and re-entries into congregate care, as well as reducing the number of re-arrests that result in a higher level placement such as Residential Treatment.

- Proposal is to expand MOU with the Department of Mental Health (DMH) to increase Probation's capacity to provide youth transitioning from, or at risk of entering out-of-home care with evidence-based, family focused therapeutic services in the community.
- **FY 11-12: \$350,000; FY 12-13: \$0**

Update

- The MOU and contract between departments was amended and expansion will begin July 1, 2012 with the start of the new fiscal year.

Community-Based Aftercare Services – Group home providers have contracts with DMH to provide coordinated aftercare services to youth returning home from care. These services assist in providing a continuum of care and ensure linkages once the youth transitions home. This strategy will improve permanency resulting by decreasing the number of re-entries into out- of- home care.

- Proposal is to develop MOU with DMH to increase contracted allocations to group home providers that provide youth transitioning from, or at risk of re-entering congregate care with aftercare services in the community.
- **FY 11-12: \$200,000; FY12-13: \$200,000**

Update

- The MOU is still being finalized. It has been submitted to County Counsel and the departments are awaiting final approval and signature by Department heads.

Community-based Substance Abuse Services- Through the use of existing County contracted providers; youth identified with substance abuse risk factors will be referred and linked with substance abuse services in the community. The availability and utilization of these services will provide judicial officers with community-based alternatives for substance abuse violations.

- Develop MOU with Department of Public Health (DPH) to provide youth transitioning from, or at risk of entering out-of-home care with substance abuse services in the community.
- **FY 11-12: \$150,000; FY12-13: \$150,000**

Update

- The MOU was finalized and Probation began making referrals for these services in May 2012.

Expansion of Functional Family Probation (FFP) – Probation previously utilized Waiver funding to create an aftercare unit for youth transitioning into the community from out-of-home care. Placement Aftercare DPOs support both in-house and contracted FFT and MST service providers by providing intensive supervision using the evidence based Functional Family Probation supervision model.

- Proposal is to expand the unit by four temporary DPOs to provide intensive supervision services to increase prevention by providing FFP supervision to youth at risk of entering out-of-home care.
- **FY 11-12: \$210,000; FY12-13: \$423,000**

Update

- Probation has recruited and made offers to staff to fill these positions. Currently there is no movement of staff within the department unless staff are filling a critical need.

Expansion of 241.1 Unit – This unit provides investigative staff to ensure joint assessments are conducted between Probation and DCFS, which are utilized to determine which status (dependency, delinquency, joint-dual supervision or dual jurisdiction) will best serve the interests of youth and protect the community.

- Proposal is to fund 10 temporary DPOs and one Acting SDPO positions to provide investigations and determinations in conjunction with DCFS caseworkers for cross-over youth.
- **FY 11-12: \$581,000; FY12-13: \$1,171,000**

Update

- Probation has recruited and made offers to staff to fill these positions. Currently there is no movement of staff within the department unless staff are filling a critical need.

II. Placement Stability

Children who are in the Child Welfare Services system and experience multiple moves are at increased risks for poor outcomes in academic achievement, socio-emotional health, developing insecure attachments, and distress due to the instability and uncertainty that comes with not having a stable family environment (Gauthier, Fortin, & Jeliu, 2004). Therefore, it is imperative that children receive consistent, quality care to reduce the number of transitions in care and caregivers.

Key indicators that Probation will track for increased placement stability are:

Placement stability (at least 12 - 24 months in care) (Probation) – percentage of children with two or fewer placements who have been in foster care for 12 - 24 months. It should be noted that, while this indicator is listed here under the Increased Permanency Outcome, under the State evaluation, this will be a Placement Stability outcome.

- Baseline 77.3%
- Current 80.0%
- National Standard 65.4%

Placement stability (at least 24 months in care) (Probation) – percentage of children with two or fewer placements who have been in foster care for 24 months or more. It should be noted that, while this indicator is listed here under the Increased Permanency Outcome, under the State evaluation, this will be a Placement Stability outcome.

- Baseline 39.7%
- Current 42.0%
- National Standard 41.8%

Placement Stability: Recommended Services

Expansion of Group Home Monitoring Unit – The Group Home Monitoring/Investigations Unit assists the Department in achieving compliance with foster care related State and Federal regulations, and ensuring corrective action measures are implemented by group home vendors as mandated by the County's Master Group Home Agreement and Title 22 State regulations. The unit also monitors the quality and fidelity of services provided to the youth and family while in the youth is in out-of-home care.

- Proposal is to expand the Group Home Monitoring Unit by four temporary Program Analysts and two temporary DPOs who will conduct compliance audits and Quality Assurance reviews of services provided to youth while in care.

Increased monitoring will improve fidelity of service delivery and improve family functioning for youth and families.

- **FY 11-12: \$314,000; FY12-13: \$637,000**

Update

- Probation has hired 4 Program Analysts and they are in the process of clearing the background investigation process.
- Probation has recruited and made offers to staff to fill the 2 DPO positions. Currently there is no movement of staff within the department unless staff are filling a critical need.

III. Enhanced Self-sufficiency

Whether a youth's safe and stable permanency is preserved is his/her family of origin; the youth attains timely alternative permanency; or the youth ages out of care without permanency, the Departments strive for youth to benefit from the most strategic preparation for adulthood and the most customized network of community connections to ensure a successful transition to adulthood. The most important areas upon which the Department will track its improvements in enhanced self-sufficiency are:

- (1) Permanency/housing;
- (2) Educational attainment;
- (3) Career/Workforce readiness; and
- (4) Social/emotional well-being.

Enhanced Self-Sufficiency: Recommended Services

Youth Development Services (YDS) – Proposal is to fund the ILP Allocation due to continued reductions. These funds will cover the following services for dependent transition age youth: exam/application fees, high school graduation expenses, director's scholarships for those participants college bound, computers, diploma and GED incentives, academic assessments, Life Skills training classes, and THPP beds.

- **FY 11-12: \$500,000; FY 12-13: \$0**

Update

- The MOU between DCFS and CSS has been finalized.
- The MOU to transfer Probation Title IVE funds to ILP is in the process of final revision. The MOU will be effective July 1, 2012

Countywide Foster Youth Education Project – As developed by Supervisor Gloria Molina, the proposed Foster Youth Education Program will assist Probation youth by improving their school stability, increasing their high school graduation rates, and encouraging them to either enroll in post-secondary education or to secure full-time employment.

- Proposal is to contract for Academic Remediation Counselors who will conduct comprehensive education assessments, develop and implement an educational case plan through a multidisciplinary team, connect students to local resources, and work to resolve any educational issues that are identified.
- **FY 11-12: \$0; FY12-13: \$462,000**

Update

- The Statement of Work is still being finalized. The target date for implementation is September 1, 2012.

Total: FY 11-12: \$2,957,000; FY 12-13: \$3,043,000

To facilitate the Board's oversight of the effectiveness of flexible Waiver investments and the Department's ongoing work with the State in its Waiver renewal efforts, the Department will provide quarterly reports to the Board which will track key permanency, placement stability and youth self-sufficiency measures through the fifth and final year of the Waiver. It should be noted that, while the State Waiver evaluation on which Waiver renewal will be based does not include self-sufficiency measures, the Department is committed to strategies that support self-sufficiency.